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ABSTRACT

This report describes an online public access catalog (OPAC) developed at Pennsylvania State University which downloads, manages, and manipulates data once it has been retrieved. The paper begins with a list of the 12 features of the system, which is called MicroLIAS (Library Information Access System): (1) build and fully index any number of local databases; (2) access local databases and LIAS using the same body of searching skills; (3) download records from the LIAS online public access catalog into local databases; (4) input/edit records using formatted work screens and a full screen editor; (5) build variable length records with variable length fields; (6) use USMARC tags and subfields or named field tags; (7) select from multiple displays for individual records; (8) customize indexing for each database; (9) use system-supplied and user-defined function keys; (10) interface with word processing software; (11) configure software to suit individual needs; and (12) produce customized bibliographies and book catalogs. Descriptions and examples are then provided of current MicroLIAS applications in the library's technical services (gifts control, labelling, snags control); public services (new books listing, subject bibliographies, videocassette catalog); and computing services (tracking work-in-progress, inventory control, tracing terminal problems). Also presented is a list of possible future areas of application of the system. It is suggested that the design of MicroLIAS, which treats the OPAC as a source of information rather than as an end in itself, is an important concept that should be seriously considered in the further development of online catalogs. (CGD)

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EXTENDING THE OPAC: CREATIVE USES OF MICROCOMPUTERS TO ENHANCE LIBRARY SERVICES

Showcase presented at
LITA's Second National Conference
Boston, Massachusetts
October 2-6, 1988

by
Dace I. Freivalds
and
Sylvia Carson

Library Computing Services
Computer and Information Systems
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
October 1988

IR 052 731

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ABSTRACT

Extending the OPAC: Creative Uses of Microcomputers to Enhance Library Services

Today's online public access catalog (OPAC) generally allows the user to access bibliographic records, verify an item's circulation status, and print the search results. However, the typical OPAC does not provide a means by which to easily download, manage, and manipulate data once it has been retrieved. To alleviate this problem, the developers of Penn State's LIAS (Library Information Access System) created MicroLIAS.

The LIAS OPAC is a machine-readable inventory of the **collective** interests of the library. MicroLIAS lets users sub-divide that same catalog any number of ways to satisfy their **individual** needs. With MicroLIAS, one can download records from LIAS and build local databases which reflect personal interests, or generate bibliographies and book catalogs. Descriptions and examples of current MicroLIAS applications in the Technical Services, Public Services, and Computing Services areas of the Penn State Libraries are illustrated in this document.

Other OPACs use commercial database management systems to perform similar tasks. MicroLIAS eliminates the need for an interface, and lets its users apply the same body of searching skills in both the OPAC and the micro. Equally important, it treats the OPAC as a **source** of information, rather than as an end in itself. This is an important design concept that should be seriously considered in the further development of online catalogs.

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INTRODUCTION

Today's online public access catalog (OPAC) generally allows the user to access bibliographic records, verify an item's circulation status, and print the search results. However, the typical OPAC does not provide a means by which to easily download, manage, and manipulate data once it has been retrieved. To alleviate this problem, the developers of Penn State's LIAS (Library Information Access System) created MicroLIAS.

While the LIAS OPAC represents, in machine-readable form, an inventory of the **collective** interests of the library, MicroLIAS lets that same catalog be subdivided in any number of ways to satisfy the **individual** needs of its users. With MicroLIAS, one can download records from LIAS and build local databases which reflect personal interests, or generate bibliographies and book catalogs.

Descriptions and examples of current MicroLIAS applications in the Technical Services, Public Services, and Computing Services areas of the Penn State Libraries are given on the following pages.

MicroLIAS HIGHLIGHTS

- Build and fully index any number of local databases
- Access local databases and LIAS using the same body of searching skills
- Download records from the LIAS online public access catalog into local databases
- Input/edit records using formatted work screens and a full screen editor
- Build variable length records, with variable length fields
- Use USMARC tags and subfields or named field tags
- Select from multiple displays for individual records: catalog, MARC-tagged, and user-defined
- Customize indexing for each database
- Use system-supplied and user-defined function keys
- Interface with word processing software
- Configure software to suit individual needs
- Produce customized bibliographies and book catalogs

TECHNICAL SERVICES APPLICATIONS

GIFTS CONTROL

The GIFTS database controls gifts and unsolicited materials that have been received at the the main campus library, but cannot be used there, either because they are duplicates or are unacceptable. Before the items are discarded, the twenty branch campus libraries can review a bibliography generated from this database and indicate if they want to add any of these items to their collections.

As each gift enters the main campus library, it is added to the GIFTS database, either by downloading a copy of the record from the LIAS OPAC, or by original keying. The book is then placed on a holding shelf. Every three months, the entire database is printed in bibliography form, and distributed to the branch campus librarians, who check off the items they want, and return their annotated list. At the end of the review period, any unrequested books are discarded. The current GIFTS database is then "retired" and a new GIFTS database begun for the next cycle.

American Society for Engineering Education. Conference. 8th. 1985. Georgia Institute of Technology. Computer Aided Engineering: Proceedings, ASEE Annual Conference, June 16-20, 1985. Washington, D.C.: The Society, 1985.
Call#: T62.A2 1985
PSU-Engineering Library
PSU-Hazleton Campus
PSU-King of Prussia

American Society for Engineering Education. Conference. 4th. 1981. University of Southern California. Education and Industry, a Joint Endeavor: 1981 ASEE Annual Conference : [proceedings]. Washington, D.C.: American Society for Engineering Education, c1981.
Call#: T62.A2 1981
PSU-Engineering Library
PSU-Hazleton Campus

Reuter, Hans-Heinrich. Fontane. Mnchen: Nymphenburger Verlagshandlung, [1968].
Call#: PT1863.Z6R4
PSU-Pattee

Ottman, Robert W. Elementary Harmony: Theory and Practice. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1961.
Call#: MT50.O925E4
PSU-Worthington Scranton Campus

Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia. 6th ed. Douglas M. Considine, editor ; Glenn D. Considine, managing editor. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, [c1983].
Call#: Q121.V3 1982
PSU-Beaver Campus
PSU-Delaware Campus
PSU-Ogontz Campus
PSU-Wilkes Barre Campus
Call#: Q121.V3 1983
PSU-Engineering Library

Liddell, Henry George. A Greek-English Lexicon. Rev. and augm. throughout. by Sir Henry Stuart Jones, with the assistance of Roderick McKenzie and with the co-operation of many scholars. With a supplement, 1968. Oxford: Clarendon Press, [1968].
Call#: PA445.E5L6 1968 Q
PSU-Pattee
Call#: PA445.E5L6 1968
PSU-Allentown Campus
PSU-Berks Campus

Directory of American Scholars 8th Ed. (Vol. 1-4 Only). New York: R. R. Bowker Co, c1982.

LABELING

Labeling is an extension to MicroLIAS software that generates spine and bibliographic labels. No unnecessary typing is required -- MicroLIAS automatically prints labels using information found in the LIAS online catalog record.

Any combination of the following can be printed: spine labels, book labels, shelflist labels, and borrower card labels. Labeling can be conducted online (while connected to LIAS), or offline (using records downloaded to a local database).

All labeling for books and serials at Penn State is currently handled using MicroLIAS labeling software.

HV5810.E33 1988
Eddy, Paul, 1944-.
The cocaine wars.

HV5810
.E33
1988

Eddy, Paul, 1944-.
The cocaine wars. 1st ed. Norton. 1988.

14405471

E78.T3P74 1986

The Prehistoric native American art of Mud Glyph Cave.

E78
.T3
P74
1986

The Prehistoric native American art of Mud Glyph Cave. 1st ed. University of Tennessee Press. c1986.

14405921

Thesis 1988mWatki,TR
Watkins, Thomas R.
X-Ray diffraction studies of microstrains in thermal barrier coatings.

Watkins, Thomas R.
X-Ray diffraction studies of microstrains in thermal barrier coatings. 1988.

14385445

G7821.C57C48 1985 Q
Chung-kuo ti chih k'o hsüeh yüan. Ti chih yen chiu so.
Chung-kuo ku ti li t'u chi.

Chung-kuo ti chih k'o hsüeh yüan. Ti chih yen chiu ...
Chung-kuo ku ti li t'u chi. Ti 1 pan. Ti t'u ch'u pan she. 1985.

14397639

TA460.B65 1987 pt.C
Boller, Chr.
Materials data for cyclic loading.

TA460
.B65
1987

Boller, Chr.
Materials data for cyclic loading. Elsevier. 1987.

14397981

HD6735.7.Z55W34813 1987
Walesa, Lech, 1943-.
Chemin d'espoir.

HD6735
.7
.Z55
W34813
1987

Walesa, Lech, 1943-.
Chemin d'espoir. 1st ed. H. Holt. c1987.

14405976

SNAGS CONTROL

The SNAGS database controls unsolicited publications that have been received, or invoices for which no order can be found. These materials are filed numerically, and managed through the SNAGS database while awaiting a decision regarding their handling. Previously, a 3x5" card file was used to control these materials.

MicroLIAS provides multiple access points to this database. Additionally, lists can be produced and circulated for review of these items, and the file can be sorted for review according to various criteria.

Records in the SNAGS database appear in a user-defined display which was specifically designed for this project.

```
→ SEARCH selector to review ←
(1)  Selector to review:2/3/88
(2)  Selector to review:2/4/88 to D. Smith
(3)  Selector to review:Ag snags 6/28/88
(4)  Selector to review:B. Seeds 6/27/88.  Reply--set up for Life Sci
(5)  Selector to review: C. Whittington 1/13/88
(6)  Selector to review:D. Gilton 8/17/88
(7)  Selector to review:D. Smith 6/28/88.  Reply--set up
(8)  Selector to review:D.Zabel 8/18/88
(9)  Selector to review:D. Zabel, 6/27/88.  Reply--can toss them
(10) Selector to review:F. Cable 1/13/88
```

```
→ SEARCH selector for review ←
→ (4) Selector to review:B. Seeds 6/27/88.  Reply--set up for Life ←
→ [1] work health safety. / institute of occupational health, ←
LIAS #1017
000 amp
008 880518neng
090    Accession no.182
100    institute of occupational health, finland
245    work health safety
260    1987,1988
500     Routed to Janice to set up for Ag
650    Letter to supplier:5/12/88 to Work Health Safety (TTT) Institute of
       Occupational Health.  Reply--freebie, sample issue
650    Selector to review:B. Seeds 6/27/88.  Reply--set up for Life Sci
651    Date input:5-11-88
651    Review by:11-88
```

>>> choose 4

(Local) - A:SNAGS

>>>

PUBLIC SERVICES APPLICATIONS

NEW BOOKS LISTING

The PSU Libraries General Reference Section, which was one of the first units to take advantage of MicroLIAS, has been using MicroLIAS to generate New Books Lists for close to a year. The New Books List includes all new titles received in General Reference during the previous month, and is distributed to 65 locations both on and off campus.

Generation of the list is quick and easy since no typing or manual sorting of the citations to be included in the list is necessary. At the end of each month, the staff member responsible for the project accesses the LIAS OPAC, downloads all new Reference titles into that month's MicroLIAS database, and prints the database using MicroLIAS' queue processing features. Monthly "new books" databases are retained for one year, which enables the production of comprehensive lists on demand.

GENERAL REFERENCE SECTION
NEW BOOKS LIST
JUNE 1988

CB475.H4713 1986
The Herder symbol dictionary. / Herder Lexikon. c1986.
Reference

CD1000.A72 1974
Archive. 2. Aufl. 1974
Reference

CT213.F33 1987
The Faces of America. 1987.
Reference

GV1455.W5 1986
Chess, the records. / Whyld, Ken. c1986
Reference

HC106.8.L67 1988
Louis Rukeyser's business almanac. c1988.
Reference

HC542.S602 Latest in Reference to date
France Afrique. / France Afrique (Paris, France). [19___]-
Central Pattee Level 4 Yellow, Latest in Reference

HD2746.5.D52
Directory of intermediaries for mergers, buyouts & acquisitions. 1987
Central Pattee Level 4 Yellow, Latest in Reference

HF3035.J34 1987
Export sales and marketing manual. / Jagoe, John R. 1st ed. c1987.-
Reference

HF5438.25.S4
A selected annotated bibliography on direct selling in the United States. c1982
Reference

HG4530.G9 1987
Guide to mutual funds. c1987-
Central Pattee Level 4 Blue, Latest in Reference

HJ101.G69 1986
A Manual on government finance statistics. [1st ed.]. 1986.
Reference

JF2011.W67 1987
World encyclopedia of political systems & parties. 2nd ed. c1987.
Reference

SUBJECT BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Subject bibliographies have been produced for many years at the PSU Libraries for use in bibliographic instruction and course-related instruction, as well as in courses taught outside the library. Increasingly, PSU librarians are turning to MicroLIAS for the production of subject bibliographies.

MicroLIAS provides many benefits not available in a "manual" system. It eliminates unnecessary typing since records can be downloaded from the LIAS OPAC into subject-specific databases or queues. Bibliographies can be printed any number of times, using a different sorting order or format each time. And, MicroLIAS supports a word processing interface for the addition of headings or annotations, integration of bibliographies with other text, and even selection of typeface.

Typical subject bibliographies generated via MicroLIAS include:
U.S. Women's History, Travel Guides, The Holocaust, and World War I.

The Pennsylvania State University
Humanities and Social Sciences Department
General Reference Section

SELECTED SOURCES FOR RESEARCH IN U.S. WOMEN'S HISTORY

General Guides and Bibliographies

Guide to reference books. / Sheehy, Eugene P. 10th ed. Chicago: ALA, 1986.
[Ref. Desk]

Harvard guide to American history / Freidel, Frank Burt. Rev. ed. 1974.
[Ref. Z1236.F77 1974]

The historian's handbook. / Poulton, Helen J. [1st ed.]. [1972]
[Ref. Z6201.P65]

Introduction to library research in women's studies. / Searing, Susan E. 1985.
[Ref. Z7961.S42 1985]

Specialized Bibliographies

Women: a bibliography of bibliographies. / Ballou, Patricia K. 2nd ed. c1986.
[Ref. HQ1121.B32 1986]

American women in church and society: 1607-1920, a bibliography. / Bass, Dorothy. 1973.
[Z7964.U49B37]

The published diaries and letters of American women: an annotated bibliography. / Goodfriend, Joyce D. c1987.
[Ref. Z5305.U5G66 1987]

Women in American history: a bibliography. / Harrison, Cynthia Ellen. 2 vols. 1979-1985.
[Ref. Z7962.H37]

The women's rights movement in the United States, 1848-1970: a bibliography. / Krichmar, Albert. 1972.
[Ref. Z7964.U49K75]

The American woman in Colonial and Revolutionary times, 1565-1800: a syllabus with bibliography. / Leonard, Eugenie (Andruss). [c1962]
[Z7964.U49L4]

Women and feminism in American history: a guide to information sources. / Tingley, Elizabeth. c1981.
[Z7964.U49T52]

VIDEOCASSETTE CATALOG

The MicroLIAS VIDEOCASSETTE database, produced at the Hazleton campus library, serves as an online catalog of the library's videocassette holdings. The database was built by downloading video records for Hazleton campus from the LIAS OPAC, and customized by the addition of non-LC subject headings. It is updated whenever a new video is added to the collection, and can be searched via multiple access points, including keyword.

The VIDEOCASSETTE database is distributed periodically to all faculty members and other interested individuals in the form of a book catalog produced through MicroLIAS. This printed catalog indexes the videos by title, subject, director, producer, etc., with each item appearing under multiple entries.

Hazleton Campus Library
Pennsylvania State University

Catalog of Database: VIDEOS Sep 20, 1988 20:01 Page 1

20th century art at the Metropolitan Museum

20th century art at the Metropolitan Museum, [videorecording].
The Lila Acheson Wallace wing.
Home Vision, c1987.
1 video cassette (VHS), (60 min.) 1/2 in.
1. Art, Modern -- 20th century.
Call#: N6487.N4M47 1987
Hazleton Campus

8 1/2

8 1/2, [videorecording].
Stamford, Conn., Vestron Video, c1980.
1 videocassette (VHS) (138 min.) sd., b&w 1/2 in.
1. Feature films.
Call#: PN1997.E366 1980
Hazleton Campus

Abbott & Costello meet Frankenstein

Bud Abbott & Lou Costello meet Frankenstein, [videorecording]. / Universal Pictures Company ; produced by Robert Arthur ; directed by Charles T. Barton.
University City, Calif., MCA Videocassette, 1982.
1 videocassette (VHS) (83 min.) sd., b&w 1/2 in.
1. Comedy films. 2. Frankenstein films. 3. Feature films.
Call#: PN1997.B76 1982
Hazleton Campus

Abraham, F. Murray

Amadeus. / Amadeus (Motion picture). [1985]

Adato, Perry Miller

Georgia O'Keeffe. c1977

Afro-Americans -- Civil rights

King. c1986

Afro-Americans -- Music -- History and criticism

Repercussions. c1984

Ailey, Alvin, 1931-

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. 1986

All quiet on the western front

All quiet on the western front, [videorecording]. / Universal Pictures. Universal City, Calif., MCA Videocassette, c1981.
1 videocassette (VHS) (130 min.) sd., b&w 1/2 in.
1. Feature films. 2. World War, 1914-1918 -- Drama. 3. War films.
Call#: PN1997.A33 1981
Hazleton Campus

Allen, Woody

Stardust memories. c1987

Allen, Woody, 1935-

Annie Hall. 1987

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, [videorecording].
Chicago, IL, Home Vision, 1986.
1 videocassette (140 min.) sd., col. 1/2 in.
1. Ballets.
VHS format.
Call#: *
Hazleton Campus

Amadeus

Amadeus (Motion picture).
Amadeus, [videorecording]. / Saul Zaentz Company. New York, N.Y., Thorn EMI/HBO Video, [1985].
1 videocassette (VHS) (158 min.) sd., col., stereo. 1/2 in.
1. Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756-1791 -- Drama. 2. Salieri, Antonio, 1750-1825 -- Drama. 3. Feature films.
Call#: PR6037.H23A8 1985
Hazleton Campus

Amadeus (Motion picture)

Amadeus (Motion picture).
Amadeus, [videorecording]. / Saul Zaentz Company. New York, N.Y., Thorn EMI/HBO Video, [1985].
1 videocassette (VHS) (158 min.) sd., col., stereo. 1/2 in.
1. Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756-1791 -- Drama. 2. Salieri, Antonio, 1750-1825 -- Drama. 3. Feature films.
Call#: PR6037.H23A8 1985
Hazleton Campus

COMPUTING SERVICES APPLICATIONS

TRACKING WORK-IN-PROGRESS

The WORK-IN-PROGRESS database provides a tracking mechanism for problems or questions about any facet of LIAS or MicroLIAS software that require follow-up, as well as a means to distribute lists of software questions received, along with their resolution.

As requests are received on pre-printed forms or via electronic mail, they are input in this database and then passed along to the appropriate staff member for review and action. As each request is worked on, its progress is recorded in the WORK-IN-PROGRESS database. Once resolved, the database is updated to include the final action, and the requester is informed of the resolution.

Records in this database appear in a user-defined display which was designed for this project. Fields such as requester name, subject, and project staff are indexed.

Classification: *RA.
Dates (Rec'd-Done): 871007-871222.
Location/ID: *209

Title: **Records display incorrect location.**
Requestor: Hewes, Judy.
Description: Display for PSU numbers 70103848, 67012838, psul72357, 85004083, 68028710 reads "Central Pattee, Level 5 Blue"; they are oversize, and should read "Central Pattee, Level 2 Core." The status display for these numbers is correct.
Resolution: Wrong length being used for checking of suffixes to LC call numbers. Fixed problem.
Subject: Action Request. -- LIAS 9.04.
Location: BRSD. -- Bibliographic Processing -- E506 Pattee.
Proj. Staff: Ferrin, Eric.

Classification: *RA
Dates (rec'd-Done): 880310-880325.
Location/ID: *259.

Title: **Problem retrieving record by ISBN.**
Requestor: Loman, Carolee A.
Description: Could not retrieve record using ISBN or MISBN - received message "no record for standard number '0876689454'". I could bring record up on screen by the LC number (86-28763) and using the 'find' command.
Resolution: Experienced hardware problems during the loading and indexing of this MARC record. Will be corrected when the indexes are rebuilt.
Subject: Action Request. -- LIAS.
Subject: Standard Number.
Subject: MARC Access.
Location: CES. -- Capital College.
Proj. Staff: Freivalds, Dace.

INVENTORY CONTROL

The INVENTORY database provides an up-to-date listing of all computer-related hardware for which PSU's Library Computer Operations Department is responsible throughout the library system. This includes personal computers, printers, terminals, modems, internal cards, disk drives, multiplexors, etc.

Records in this database appear in a user-defined display which was specifically designed for this project. Through this database, items are inventoried, and indexed by location, authorized options, in/out status, equipment type, and serial number.

```
  Classification:      IG.
  Dates (Rec'd-Done): 870410-870410.
  Location/ID:         Line*000.
  Classification:      PSU085038.
Title:        Care Wand Reader.
Subtitle:     Model 212.
Serial Nbr.: 0201992.
Geog. Subj.: LCOD. -- Library Computer Operations -- E8 Pattee.
History Log:  Assigned to Demo Bag.

  Classification:      IT.
  Dates (Rec'd-Done): 870325-871223.
  Location/ID:         Line*000.
Title:        Circulation Control Terminal.
Subtitle:     FEP 1-1300.
Serial Nbr.: 10015.
Serial Nbr.: Rental.
Geog. Subj.: RISD. -- Earth and Mineral Sciences -- 105 Deike.
  Hardware Options: Cassette - Data Cassette Recorder.
  Hardware Options: Printer - Thermal Printer / 21 Columns.
  Hardware Options: Wand - Infrared OCR Reader -- #M4-28051.

  Classification:      IT.
  Dates (Rec'd-Done): 870407-870407.
  Location/ID:         Line*185.
Title:        Diablo 1700 Terminal.
Subtitle:     Model 1700.
Serial Nbr.: 004169.
Serial Nbr.: Rental.
Geog. Subj.: LCOD. -- Library Computer Operations -- E8 Pattee.
History Log:  Xerox Maintenance Number 67000 4169.

  Classification:      IP.
  Dates (Rec'd-Done): 880111-880203.
  Location/ID:         Line*000.
Title:        Epson LX 800.
Serial Nbr.: 01001064.
Geog. Subj.: RISD. -- Documents -- C207B Pattee.
  Hardware Options: Printer - Parallel -- 1.

  Classification:      IT.
  Dates (Rec'd-Done): 870407-870407.
  Location/ID:         Line*000.
Title:        Honeywell VIP7201 Terminal.
Subtitle:     Model VIP7201.
Serial Nbr.: 01166.
Geog. Subj.: HONEYWELL. -- Camptc Repair Site.
History Log:  Returned to Honeywell 3/83
          Received in exchange serial number CAMPTC 3461 on 3/83.
```

TRACKING TERMINAL PROBLEMS

All equipment problems reported to PSU's Library Computer Operations Department from any library location, along with their resolutions, are logged into the TERMINAL PROBLEMS database. The types of problems reported and logged include malfunctioning hardware such as disk drives, keyboards, and circulation terminals, as well as system problems such as locked screens and disabled lines.

Each morning, a printout of unresolved requests is generated and distributed to operations staff for attention. This database is also used as a reference tool for operations staff, who can search the database to find information on how to handle specific equipment problems.

Records in this database appear in a user-defined display which was specifically designed for this project. The database provides access to fields such as type of equipment, problem type, and terminal location.

Trouble Report -- Index
(Arranged by Subject/Geographic Subject)

CES -- Beaver Campus
IBM
Call#: TR880902-
*5266

CES -- Berks Campus
Qume
Call#: TR880919-
*5311

CES -- Worthington Scranton Campus
Qume
Call#: TR880912-
*5291

LCOD -- Library Computer Operations Division
MTO6
Call#: TR880918-
*5308

Terminal Problems -- CP6
MTO6
Call#: TR880918-
*5308

Terminal Problems -- LIAS
Qume
Call#: TR880919-
*5311

Qume
Call#: TR880912-
*5291

Terminal Problems -- M-LIAS
IBM
Call#: TR880902-
*5266

FUTURE APPLICATIONS

Examples of other areas of the library where applications of MicroLIAS are under consideration include:

- **Cataloging:** a database of reference titles which are available throughout the department to assist in cataloging.
- **Collection Development:** lists of missing or lost books can be sorted by call number to check the stacks, then re-sorted by main entry to check bibliographies such as Books in Print prior to reordering.
- **Periodicals:** a database which provides geographic access to the newspapers held by the library.
- **Rare Books:** databases for special collections such as Chromolithography, Paris Publications of the '20s, Surrealism, The American Home, and books with unusual bindings.
- **Reference:** Ready Reference databases for specific disciplines such as business.
- **Reserve Reading:** databases of materials available on Reserve by course name, number, and instructor.
- **SDI:** lists of newly received publications in specific subject areas.
- **Theses:** databases or lists of theses produced by a specific department or college.

CONCLUSION

The OPAC is a rich resource of machine-readable data. In addition to serving as a public catalog, it can also be used to improve library services that are currently handled manually, and to create exciting new applications not previously possible. As the applications described here illustrate, MicroLIAS has successfully enhanced library services in all areas of the Penn State Libraries.

Although other OPACs do not support a microcomputer application such as MicroLIAS, many users are able to perform similar tasks using commercial database management systems. MicroLIAS eliminates the need for an interface, and uses the same body of searching skills in both the OPAC and the micro. Equally important, it treats the OPAC as a **source** of information, rather than as an end in itself. This is an important design concept that should be seriously considered in the further development of online catalogs.